

# Advertisement.

LANCASTER, November 9th, 1775.

**A**T a Meeting of the Freeholders of the County of LANCASTER, held here this Day, pursuant to public Notice from the High Sheriff, an Address to the Throne on the present unhappy Disputes betwixt GREAT-BRITAIN and the COLONIES in NORTH-AMERICA was proposed, and after a Debate, the Majority was declared to be in Favor of the Address.

BUT a considerable Number of GENTLEMEN and FREEHOLDERS, averse to coercive Measures and to the Tendency of that Address, could not give their Sanction to it, and have therefore expressed their humble and loyal Sentiments on this important Occasion, in the Petition hereunto subjoined.—The Friends to Commerce, Equity, and Peace cannot, at this alarming Crisis, convey their Thoughts in Language more emphatical than that of a late PROTEST, signed by many Noblemen of the highest Rank, and most extensive Fortunes. The inclosed Copy of it is extracted from the public Papers.

N. B. THE Petition has been already signed by a great Number of respectable Freeholders, and will be transmitted with all convenient Speed through the County for the Signatures of such as shall approve of it.

## C O P Y.

“ To the KING’s Most Excellent MAJESTY.

“ The humble ADDRESS and PETITION of the GENTLEMEN, CLERGY, TRADERS,  
“ and FREEHOLDERS of the County Palatine of LANCASTER.

“ May it please your MAJESTY,

“ **W**E your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the GENTLEMEN, CLERGY,  
“ TRADERS, and FREEHOLDERS of the County Palatine of LANCASTER, beg  
“ Leave to approach the Throne with the most respectful Assurances of our inviolable At-  
“ tachment and Affection to your Majesty’s Royal Person and Illustrious Family, and our  
“ unaffected Zeal for the firm Support of your Majesty’s Government, the Dignity of your  
“ Crown, and the Prosperity of this once happy and united Empire.

“ In the present alarming and critical Situation of public Affairs, it becomes every Man,  
“ who glories in the Name of BRITON, to drop every inferior Consideration and Distinc-  
“ tion, and sedulously endeavor to avert those Calamities which threaten your Majesty’s  
“ Dominions.

“ ANIMATED with these Sentiments, We humbly and earnestly implore your Majesty  
“ to indulge the natural Propensities of your Heart in the Exertion of your Royal Influence  
“ for the Re-establishment of Peace and Harmony betwixt Great-Britain and the Colonies  
“ in America, by such Means as may immediately put a Stop to the dreadful and de-

“ structive

" destructive Consequences of a most unnatural Civil War. These Sentiments, We feel  
 " ourselves constrained to lay before your Majesty, with all Humility, lest, by our Silence,  
 " it might be imputed to us, that We were consenting to the Opinions and Wishes of Se-  
 " verity and Coercion, which have of late been repeatedly expressed to your Majesty in  
 " certain Addresses to the Throne: Such Addresses, however well-intended, We cannot  
 " approve, because We apprehend the Measures therein recommended, may be very doubt-  
 " ful in their Success, and fatal in their Consequences."

*The following is a GENUINE Copy of the PROTEST  
 entered in the HOUSE of LORDS, last Thursday.*

#### DISSENTIENT,

1st. **B**ECAUSE we cannot, as Englishmen, as Christians, or as men of common humani-  
 ty, consent to the prosecution of a cruel civil war, so little supported by justice, and  
 so very fatal in its necessary consequences, as that which is now waging against our brethren  
 and fellow-subjects in America. We have beheld with sorrow and indignation, session after  
 session, and notwithstanding repeated warnings of the danger, attempts made to deprive some  
 millions of British subjects of their trade, their laws, their constitution, their mutual inter-  
 course, and of the very food which God has given them for their subsistence. We have be-  
 held endeavours used to enforce these impolitic severities at the point of the bayonet. We  
 have, on the other hand, beheld so large a part of the empire, united in one common cause,  
 really sacrificing with cheerfulness their lives and fortunes, and preferring all the horrors of  
 a war raging in the very heart of their country, to ignominious ease. We have beheld this  
 part of his Majesty's subjects, thus irritated to resistance, and so successful in it, still making  
 professions (in which we think it neither wise nor decent to affect a disbelief) of the  
 utmost loyalty to his Majesty; and unwearied with continued repulses, repeatedly petition-  
 ing for conciliation, upon such terms only as shall be consistent with the dignity and welfare  
 of the mother country. When we consider these things, we cannot look upon our fellow-  
 subjects in America in any other light than that of freemen driven to resistance by acts of op-  
 pression and violence.

2dly. **B**ECAUSE this unnatural war, thus commenced in oppression, and in the most errone-  
 ous policy, must, if persevered in, be finally ruinous in its effects. The commerce of Great  
 Britain with America was great and increasing, the profits immense, the advantages, as a  
 nursery of seamen, and as an inexhaustible magazine of naval stores, infinite; and the con-  
 tinuance of that commerce, particularly in times of war, when most wanted to support our  
 fleets and revenues, not precarious, as all foreign trade must be, but depending solely on our-  
 selves. These valuable resources, which enabled us to face the united efforts of the House  
 of Bourbon, are actually lost to Great Britain, and irretrievably lost, unless redeemed by im-  
 mediate and effectual pacification.

3dly. **B**ECAUSE Great Britain, deprived of so valuable a part of its resources, and not  
 animated either with motives of self-defence, or with those prospects of advantage and glory,  
 which have hitherto supported this nation, in all its foreign wars, may possibly find itself un-  
 able to supply the means of carrying on a civil war, at such a vast distance, in a country so  
 peculiarly circumstanced, and under the complicated difficulties which necessarily attend it.  
 Still less should we be able to preserve by mere force that vast continent, and that growing  
 multitude of resolute freemen who inhabit it; even if that, or any country was worth govern-  
 ing against the inclination of all its inhabitants. But we fear, that while we are making  
 these

these fruitless efforts, refusing to give credit to the declarations of our fellow-subjects, and blindly confiding in the insidious professions of the natural enemies of this country, we are preparing an easy prey for those who prudently sit quiet, beholding British forces, which, if united, might be in a condition, from their valour, numbers, and discipline, to carry terror into the very heart of their kingdoms, destroying each other. Every event, which ever way it turns, is a victory to them. Our very hospitals furnish them with daily triumphs, the greater as they are certain, without any risque to them of men or money.

4thly. BECAUSE we conceive the calling in foreign forces to decide domestic quarrels, to be a measure both disgraceful and dangerous; and that the advice which Ministers have dared to give to his Majesty, which they have avowed and carried into execution, of sending to the garrisons of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, the dominions of the crown of Great Britain, a part of his Electoral troops, without any previous consent, or recommendation of authority of Parliament, is unconstitutional. That Hanoverian troops should, at the mere pleasure of the Ministers, be considered as a part of the British military establishment, and take a rotation of garrison duties, through these dominions, is, in practice and precedent, of the highest danger to the safety and liberties of this kingdom, and tends wholly to invalidate the wise and salutary declaration of the grand fundamental law, of our glorious deliverer King William, which has bound together the rights of the subject, and the succession of the crown.

5thly. BECAUSE the Ministers, who are to be intrusted with the management of this war, have proved themselves unequal to the task, and in every degree unworthy of public trust. Parliament has given them every assistance they asked; no unforeseen accidents have stood in their way; no storms have disabled, or delayed their operations; no foreign power hath, as yet, interfered; but notwithstanding these advantages, by their ignorance, negligence, and want of conduct, our arms have been disgraced; upwards of ten thousand of the flower of our army, with an immense artillery, under four Generals of reputation, and backed with a great naval force, have been miserably blockaded in one seaport town, and after repeated and obstinate battles, in which such numbers of our bravest men have fallen, the British forces have not been able to penetrate one mile into the country, which they were sent to subdue; important fortresses are seized, the Governors are driven from their provinces, and it is doubtful, whether at this moment we are in possession of a single town in all North-America. Whether we consider its extent or its commerce, England has lost half its empire in one campaign. Nor can we impute the misconduct of ministers to mere inability, nor to their ignorance of the state of America, upon which they attempt to justify themselves; for while some members of administration confess they were deceived, as to the strength and condition of provinces, we have from others received official information, that the insufficiency of the navy was concealed from parliament, and part of administration, from a fear of not receiving support from its members: We cannot therefore consent to an address, which may deceive his Majesty and the Public, into a belief of the confidence of this House in the present Ministers, who have deceived parliament, disgraced the nation, lost the colonies, and involved us in a civil war against our clearest interest; and upon the most unjustifiable grounds, wantonly spilling the blood of thousands of our fellow subjects.

TORRINGTON.  
FITSWILLIAMS.  
ARCHER.  
THANET.  
CHOLMONDELEY.  
KING.  
PORTLAND.

STAMFORD.  
PONSONBY.  
ABINGDON.  
MANCHESTER.  
DEVONSHIRE.  
CHEDWORTH.  
BOYLE.

CRAVEN.  
SCARBOROUGH.  
EFFINGHAM.  
ROCKINGHAM.  
RICHMOND.



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